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6/24/98

1 MARCH 1956

ELY IN: GUILLAUME OUT

- I. Gen. Paul Ely, 58, has replaced Gen. Guillaume as President of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. This is second time he has held post, which is top French military job. His background:
- A. French rep to Standing Group of NATO military committee in Washington ('51) President of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee ('53); Commissioner General and C in C in Indochina after fall of Dien Bien Phu, '54-'55.
 - B. Protege of late General De Lattre, pro-NATO and known as hard-working intelligent, quiet, and non-committal.
 - C. Has lame right arm and, in '54 and early '55, was considered a "very sick man."

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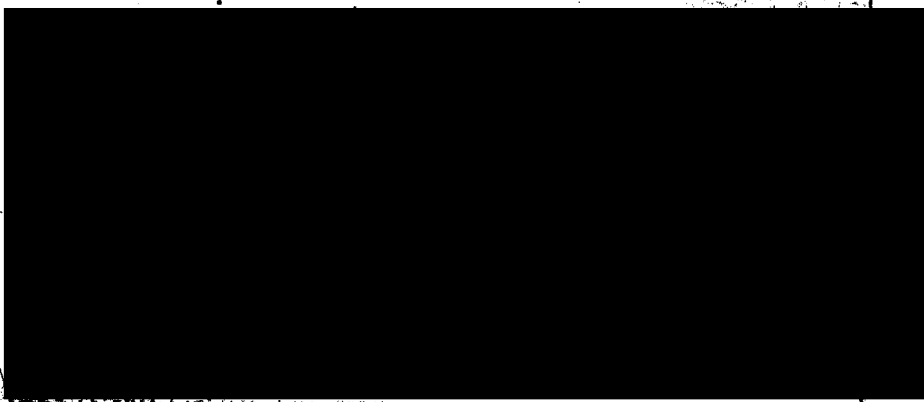
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1. While in Indochina, was convinced champion of French position that Diem inadequate and a "National Union" government (of sects and parties) preferable in South Vietnam.

2. His views on North Africa unknown.

II In contrast, Gen. Augustin Guillaume, a onetime Resident General in Morocco ('51), played key role in '53 deposition of Sultan Mohamed ben Youseff.

- A. Guillaume tends to be anti-American, and is identified with "strong policy" in North Africa (as advocated by French settlers and right-wing opinion in France).
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